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Docket No.: KCC-15,287

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven surgical fabric laminate, comprising:
a first nonwoven layer;
a second nonwoven layer; and
a meltblown web positioned between the first nonwoven layer and the second nonwoven layer, the meltblown web comprising at least one layer consisting essentially of fine meltblown fibers having a diameter less than 5.0 microns adjacent at least one layer of coarse meltblown fibers having a diameter of at least 5.0 microns, and having a gradient fiber size structure wherein the adjacent layers of the meltblown web have a mean diameter difference of at least 4.0 microns.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 1, wherein the fine meltblown fibers have an average diameter of 0.1 micron to about 4.0 microns.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)

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7. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 1, wherein the coarse meltblown fibers have an average diameter of about 6.0 microns to about 15 microns.

8. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 1, wherein the at least one layer of fine meltblown fibers is bonded to the at least one layer of coarse meltblown fibers.

9. (Original) The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 8, wherein the meltblown web has an air permeability of about 176 cfm to about 227 cfm.

10. (Original) The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 8, wherein the meltblown web has an opacity of about 39% to about 51%.

11. (Original) The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 1, wherein the gradient fiber size structure comprises a layer of fine meltblown fibers positioned between a first layer of coarse meltblown fibers and a second layer of coarse meltblown fibers.

12. (Original) The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 11, wherein the meltblown web has an air permeability of about 176 cfm to about 212 cfm.

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13. (Original) The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 11, wherein the meltblown web has an opacity of about 42% to about 51%.

14. (Original) The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 1, wherein the meltblown web has a basis weight of about 5 gsm to about 34 gsm.

15. (Original) The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 1, wherein the meltblown web has a basis weight of about 9 gsm to about 15 gsm.

16. (Original) The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 1, wherein the first nonwoven layer and the second nonwoven layer each comprise a spunbond nonwoven layer.

17. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven surgical fabric laminate, comprising:

a first spunbond layer;

a meltblown web having a first side bonded to a first side of the first spunbond layer, the meltblown web comprising at least one layer consisting essentially of coarse meltblown fibers having a ~~first mean fiber diameter~~ less than 5.0 microns adjacent at least one layer consisting essentially of fine meltblown fibers having a ~~second mean fiber diameter of at least 5.0 microns~~, wherein ~~a difference between the first mean fiber diameter and the second mean fiber diameter is~~ the adjacent layers of the meltblown web have a mean diameter difference of at least 4.0 microns; and

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a second spunbond layer having a first side bonded to a second side of the meltblown web.

18. (Original) The nonwoven fabric laminate of claim 17, wherein the meltblown web further comprises a third layer of meltblown fibers.

19. (Currently Amended) A nonwoven surgical fabric laminate, comprising:

a meltblown web having at least one layer consisting essentially of coarse meltblown fibers adjacent at least one layer consisting essentially of fine meltblown fibers, the coarse meltblown fibers having ~~an average~~ a diameter of at least ~~about 5~~ 5.0 microns and the fine meltblown fibers having ~~an average~~ a diameter of less than ~~about 5~~ 5.0 microns;

the at least one layer of coarse meltblown fibers and the at least one layer of fine meltblown fibers ~~provide~~ providing a gradient fiber size structure, wherein the at least one layer of ~~coarse~~ coarse meltblown fibers has a mean fiber diameter at least 4.0 microns greater than a mean fiber diameter of the at least one layer of fine meltblown fibers.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Original) A medical gown comprising the laminate of Claim 19.

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22. (Original) A medical drape comprising the laminate of Claim 19.
23. (Currently Amended) A medical garment comprising the laminate of Claim 19.
24. (Currently Amended) A medical sterilization wrap comprising the laminate of Claim 19.
25. (Currently Amended) A medical towel comprising the laminate of Claim 19.
26. (Currently Amended) A medical foot cover comprising the laminate of Claim 19.

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